

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 3-7. These sheets, which include Figures 3-7, replace the original sheets including Figures 3-7.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Office action.

The Office action objects to the drawings as being improperly hatched. Please note that applicants include herewith replacement drawing sheets reflecting modifications of Figures 3-7. In each of the identified drawings, the appropriate hatching has been added to elements 11-13 and 15-18, as well as the unnumbered resist. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are therefore respectfully requested.

The Office action rejects claim 1 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 1-161597. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

Please note that applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the features of original claim 4, against which the present basis for rejection does not apply. Such amendment therefore renders the present rejection moot, and reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

The Office action rejects claims 2 and 3 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 1-161597. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

As noted above in connection with the anticipation rejection, applicants have amended independent claim 1, from which each of rejected claims 2 and 3 depends, to incorporate the features of original claim 4. As claim 4 was not included within the present rejection, the rejection should be overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

The Office action rejects claims 1-5 and 16-21 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over TERA0 et al. in view of EBISAWA et al. and PARK. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

Applicants note that the applied PARK reference is available as prior art under only 35 U.S.C. §102(e). The earliest U.S. filing date of attributable to the PARK patent is May 8, 2001, which date falls after the August 11, 2000 filing date of the Japanese application whose priority is claimed by the present inventors.

Accordingly, the present applicants can perfect their priority claim and overcome the reference by making of record a verified English language translation of the priority application. Applicants include such verified translation with the present amendment, and therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection.

The Office action explicitly states that claims 5-15 are allowable but for their dependence from rejected claim 1. Please note that applicants have amended claim 5 into independent form by incorporating the features of original claim 1. Accordingly, both claim 5 as well as claims 6-15, which depend therefrom, should be in condition for immediate allowance.

In addition to the amendments described above, applicants have added new claims 28-33. These include independent claim 28, from which the other new claims depend. Applicants suggest that these new claims recite features that are neither disclosed, taught, nor suggested by the prior art.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

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overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional  
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

  
Eric Jensen, Reg. No. 37,855

745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone (703) 521-2297

EJ/fb

**Appendix**

This appendix consists of three replacement drawing sheets and a verified English language translation of the priority application.